

Fingerprints

475

Judge Besson reports that Mr. Phillips states that about two years ago the authorities of Neptune Township, Monmouth County, thought well of the project of adopting the finger print system as part of their police protective measures and that he, learning that Schwartz of Newark was supposed to be an expert in that line, visited Schwartz in Newark for the purpose of gaining information and possibly engaging him. Schwartz during a conversation in enthusing upon finger prints opened his pocketbook and produced a visiting card which he said was the solution of the whole Hall-Mills murder mystery. He then put the card back in his pocketbook stating that it had been given to him by some man named Fitzpatrick who Phillips now states has since died.

Of course, if this is true, it is quite important in two particulars - first - showing the loose way the card was being carried around, subject to all kinds of handling; Second, in that Schwartz did not really find the card, but obtained it from Fitzpatrick who is now dead and who, therefore, is unable to account for its existence and whereabouts previous to the time that Schwartz obtained it from him.

RHW<sup>c</sup>